

# Foreword

This is the third edition of the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education and once again the journal has contributions from a wide geographic area. It is interesting and inspiring to hear of recent developments but I am always intrigued by the different historical bases for the development of clinical legal education across the world. In Croatia, Steven Austermiller's clinical work has emerged against a background of a struggling legal system with inexperienced personnel, whilst in Australia Jeff Giddings' article describes the development of clinical work as a provider of legal services to the poor. Here in the UK the emphasis has been on the educational benefits the clinical approach brings to legal education.

Despite these differences the problems, conflicts and questions arising from the day to day maintenance of such programmes are surprisingly similar. Philip Iya's article considers the seemingly universal conflict between the profession and the academy and the restrictions it places on legal education, whilst Susan Campbell, Alan Ray and Jeff Giddings touch on the problems of staffing, funding and developing new programmes all of which sound very familiar to me.

This third edition is published shortly before our first International Conference on Clinical Legal Education to be held in London. I look forward to meeting some of our contributors and others interested in the field and hope that the conference can be established on a regular basis. Some of the papers from the conference will be published in future editions of the journal. It seems to me that ongoing international debate on clinical legal education has a lot to sustain it. It is precisely the mixture of common ground and differences that make it so interesting and diverse.

*Cath Sylvester*

Editor

